

Proposed MAGIP GIS Mentoring Program—Executive Summary

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The MAGIP GIS Mentoring program currently under development hopes to provide a web-based, self-service mechanism that enables MAGIP members to connect with each other as mentors/mentees, for peer-to-peer assistance, and for basic networking. MAGIP wishes to encourage the formation of an interconnected group of members across the state, many of whom will simultaneously be both mentees and mentors. This dual role is possible because many practitioners have a current bank of skills they can offer as a mentor while at the same time seeking guidance from a mentor to strengthen skills in other more challenging areas.

Note: Participants using MAGIP web resources as a mentor or mentee must be MAGIP members in good standing. Non-members cannot access member profile information on the MAGIP website.

MAGIP members may serve as a mentor or a peer assistant for a project or a new task (short term: "Help Desk") or with career development (ongoing: traditional "Mentoring"). A rapport between members could be made based on topic/work task, by convenience of location, and/or because their personal styles match. The self-service mechanisms under development for the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program include portions of the MAGIP website:

- **Member profile pages**—each member voluntarily completes their profile to describe their GIS skill set. Members also could voluntarily make it known that they are available as a mentor by setting specific "mentor" checkboxes.

Note: Members may choose to completely hide their profile and not be known to the MAGIP membership at large.

- **MAGIP GIS Mentoring Program pages**
- **Member Searching Instructions** describing how to use the MAGIP web interface to find a mentor or another member with whom to network.

The MAGIP GIS Mentoring program is a self-service, volunteer program; however, MAGIP intends to publicize the existence of the program to all members and to the broader GIS community in Montana to encourage participation by potential mentors and mentees. If needed, experienced GIS practitioners will be encouraged to make themselves available as mentors to our GIS community. We presume that member-mentees with specific informational or GIS Help needs will naturally seek assistance through this program once it is established. Ultimately, it is the MAGIP members who voluntarily choose to work together in this program. MAGIP will not work as a mentoring relationship "broker"; however, MAGIP will provide guidance about mentoring, the vehicle for them to know more about one another, and encouragement to share their knowledge through this program.

Note: Montana GIS practitioners who have attained GISP status may already be advertised as a mentor through the GISCI: http://www.gisci.org/Mentoring_Program/mentoring_program.aspx